

## THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 1887.

## The Essex County Asylum.

Our regular correspondent has furnished our readers, during the last three weeks, with a detailed account of the construction of the Essex Co. Asylum for the Insane, together with a careful and accurate description of its inmates and the administration of its affairs. We have received many gratifying expressions of approval of our having thus acquainted our readers with the workings of this most important institution of our county. But since the subject of the care and treatment of the insane is one that interests personally every one, we again call attention to these articles, and ask those who have not read them to look up the back numbers of THE CITIZEN, if they have not vanished in smoke, and do so now.

The increase of insanity, the most frightful curse resting upon humanity, is startling. No pains should be spared to prevent, to mitigate, to cure it. Whatever else may be neglected, pushed aside or delayed by the State, this may not. The evil is present and aggressive.

The school and the jail seem no more important for the public welfare than the lunatic asylum: and neither of the former are as liable to abuse or mismanagement as the latter. The very words insane asylum bring up pictures of cruelty, ignorance and rascality. The poorhouse, the school, the jail and most of our public institutions, force themselves upon our attention every day. Their frequenters are not backward about making known their complaints about their guardians, and they have opportunity in abundance. The lunatic, however, has neither the sense to perceive, the memory to store, the freedom to speak or the character to secure attention to his wrongs; and the world seldom takes note of the place of his abode or of his life within it. Negligence and brutality grow apace in the congenial atmosphere of the home of the witless and the weak, unless held in check by a strong arm.

It is with no small satisfaction, therefore, that "our" asylum can stand so close a scrutiny. Our representative was given every facility to investigate every nook and corner of the institution, and see for himself how the work was done within its walls. His report bears evidence of the admirable system which has been established, and the strict discipline which causes the system to be lived up to. The board of Freeholders seem fortunate in securing so capable a superintendent.

Some of the baser sort of democrats some time ago sought to make political capital out of charges against the Board of Freeholders' management of the Asylum. The Freeholders were indicted, the whole thing was minutely inquired into, a trial was had, and the pitiable breaking down of the prosecution, the shame and confusion of its promoters and the thorough establishment of the skill and diligence of the managers of the asylum are still fresh in our minds.

So quiet is he about it that few know that a very large share of the credit for the exceptionally economical and efficient administration of the affairs of this great family of insane, is due to our fellow townsman Mr. McGowan, Chairman of the Lunacy Committee of the Board of Freeholders. It would be a public misfortune if the County should chance to lose the benefit of his year of experience and untiring attention to the cause of the insane.

We wish to call attention of our readers to the notice on our third page of the industrial exhibition at the Eastern District in East Orange. This kind of work is receiving a good deal of attention in the public schools of the County, the small as well as the large. Montclair's exhibit last Winter in New York and Hoboken surprised such visitors as were not aware of her substantial work in this field. East Orange is making fine progress although in a somewhat different way; and other schools are following. It would appear that there is no longer any doubt of the practicability of the work, and that, too, without interfering with the regular school studies, on the contrary, it helps it.

N. S. M.

To The Citizen:

The notable zeal which all denominations of Christians are showing in the work of Foreign Missions is one of the signs of the times, and a proof that the Christian religion still possesses all its first time vitality. In England, for several years past, the public interest has been rising year by year, latterly culminating in great simultaneous meetings held all over the kingdom during the second week of February. As many as nine hundred meetings

during that week were reported in 1886. In Ireland eighty-six towns devoted, by agreement, the third week of last October to the same interest.

The fire has now leaped across the ocean. The Presbyterian General Assembly, whose sessions have just closed at Omaha, Neb., sent out from that centralmost point of the great Home Missionary field, the cry of "A million dollars a year for Foreign Missions" as the proper part of their churches, and the Synod of New Jersey has already inaugurated a plan for the simultaneous meetings, following the lead set by England. A large committee of representative men from all parts of the State recently met and made arrangements for all-day conventions in fifty-eight different towns and villages during the third week of November next, to be addressed by the best informed and most able missionary speakers to be obtained, thus to impart to the people everywhere, the most accurate and freshest information and to press upon all Christians the departing Savior's great commission: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

In the spirit of the time which is impatient of long names and rejoices in cabalistic initials, these meetings are spoken of as the "N. S. M." i. e. November Simultaneous Meetings.

The English call theirs the "F. S. M." or February Simultaneous Meetings. Doubtless the other denominations will more or less generally, in the near future, join in the plan and so we may see before long a grand simultaneous missionary advance in our country also, along the whole line.

A remarkable movement is already in progress among the college students of our country. It is said that within the past year over twelve hundred young men and three hundred young women, representing ninety-two different colleges, have signed agreements offering themselves to go as missionaries if the churches will send them.

We may await with interest the results of these meetings next fall throughout our State. One of the conventions has been appointed to be held in Bloomfield.

H. W. BALLANTINE.

## Y. M. C. A. Notes.

The regular monthly meeting of the board of directors will be held Friday evening next, July 1st, at 8 o'clock.

The men's meeting last Saturday evening, was another big success. Fifty men were present. Prof. Fred Savage sang as announced. This Saturday evening Chas. King of New York will speak and all men are invited to hear him. The president, Jos. B. Maxfield, will lead the meeting. An experienced leader will be present to take charge of the singing and everybody is expected to help sing. Meeting from 8 to 9 o'clock.

You will find no better ice-water than that offered at all times, during day and evening. Run into the rooms on your way to and from the depot and refresh yourself.

On account of the warm weather the class in callisthenics will be discontinued until Fall.

The report of the proceedings of the Eighteenth Annual State Convention of Young Men's Christian Associations of New Jersey is now to be seen at the rooms. The Convention took place last April at New Brunswick.

## STATE ITEMS.

There are 240 newspapers in the State and only 100 permitted to publish the laws. According to the classification of the papers, selected, 34 are Democratic, 34 Republican, 3 German Democratic, 3 German Republican, 2 Labor, 17 Independent, 2 German Independent, 1 Holland Republican and 3 Nondescript.

John Wilson, a prominent West Philadelphia, was drowned at Atlantic City, on Sunday, while bathing. Drowning accidents are also reported at New Brunswick and Jersey City.

Two callow youths in Burlington county are reported to have exchanged shots in a dispute over a girl caused by jealousy. One received a flesh wound in the calf of the right leg, while a bullet went through the other's hat. This satisfied both, and they separated without any further hostile demonstration. The girl succeeded in bringing the two lovers together, but failed to reconcile them. One has just returned from the West, where he has been living with a band of cowboys.

Among the recent articles sent to the Washington Association, at Morristown, for exhibition at Washington's Headquarters, are several household articles, presented by William J. Britton, of Madison, notably a linen sheet woven by Margaret Britton; a linen pillow-case woven by his aunt, Mary Lee; a veil worn by his grandmother, an ancient meat dish and a sugar bowl. A valuable autograph letter, written by Washington at Morristown in 1777, has been presented by Ewin W. Coggeshall, of Morristown. The annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Washington Association will be held at the headquarters on Wednesday, June 29th.

The brakemen on the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, who were receiving \$45 a month will in future get \$47.50 per month, and the brakemen who were paid \$47.50 will get \$50 a month.

In the Camden Criminal Court, Thursday, before Judge Hugg, James, Charles and John Collins, brothers, were ordered to contribute five dollars per week towards the support of their aged mother who is unable to take care of herself.

The Alliance Jews, at Vineland, have shipped about 65,000 parts of strawberries this year, and more than 300,000 quarts have been sent to market from Vineland Centre, for which from five to ten cents

per quart has been realized by the growers. Benjamin Matthews, aged eighty-three years, who died a few years ago at Jackson's Mill, Ocean County, had been a Postmaster for forty-eight years, having been appointed by Martin Van Buren when the office was established. He had lived under the administration of twelve Presidents.

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